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# 155 more back from Myanmar

*They are among the trafficking victims rescued months ago*

STAR REPORT

Myanmar yesterday sent 155 more trafficking victims back to Bangladesh, more than a month after rescuing them from a boat stranded at the Bay of Bengal.

The migrants were repatriated through the Ghumdu border in Bandarban following a flag meeting between the two border forces at Muangdaw immigration camp in Myanmar.

Among the returnees, 40 hail from Narayanganj, 25 from Sirajganj, 15 each from Madaripur and Jhenidah, 12 from Pabna, 11 from Chuadanga, 8 each from Jessor and Sunamganj, 6 from Magura, 5 from Comilla, 4 each from Kushtia and Joypurhat, and 2 from Satkhira.

With this, 342 trafficking victims have so far been repatriated from Myanmar. The batch of 155 returnees was among 528 people who were rescued by the Myanmar Navy, said a foreign ministry statement.

"The repatriation process is a clear manifestation of Bangladesh's commitment and seriousness in carrying out the repatriation of the verified Bangladeshi within the shortest possible time," it said.

The 155 returnees were first taken to a temporary camp at Ghumdu High School by six buses. After lunch, they were handed over to Cox's Bazar police.

In order to verify their nationalities for the second time, police sent them to a temporary camp at the Cox's Bazar Cultural Centre, Shamol Kumar Nath, SP of the district, told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



A jungle path, top left, from the hill at Wang Kelian, a Malaysian village bordering Thailand, in Perlis state, which was used by law enforcers to carry the bodies of reportedly Bangladeshi and Rohingya trafficking victims to hospital for autopsies. The bodies were discovered in 139 mass graves on May 22. At least 106 exhumed bodies were later buried, top right, at Kampung Tualang of Alor Setar in the Malaysia's northern state of Kedah. The hills of Wang Kelian, bottom right, where the bodies were extracted from. Some of the 155 trafficking victims from Bangladesh, bottom left, arrive at Cox's Bazar from Myanmar after Myanmar authorities had captured them on a boat in its territorial waters.

PHOTO: PORIMOL PALMA/BANGLAR CHOKH



# Not enough

*Rights bodies say on actions of govts in the region to combat human trafficking*

PORIMOL PALMA back from Malaysia

Mohammad Shafiq was shocked when he saw policemen carrying dozens of coffins to a graveyard at Kampung Tualang village of Alor Setar in Malaysia's northern state of Kedah late June.

He saw hundreds of locals rushing there to see the bodies recovered from different mass graves in Malaysia.

None came to claim the bodies, believed to be of Rohingya and Bangladeshi fortune seekers who had fallen victim to the notorious human trafficking through the Bay of Bengal.

Unidentified and unclaimed, they were buried beside a rubber plantation; unceremoniously.

"The site is now used only for burying unidentified bodies," said local Shafiq (not real name).

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

RAJON KILLING  
Key accused Muhit makes confession  
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulibazar

Muhit Alam yesterday confessed to his involvement in the brutal killing of 13-year-old Samiul Alam Rajon in Sylhet.

The prime accused in the sensational case gave his confessional statement before the court of Sylhet Metropolitan Magistrate Anowarul Haq. Inspector Suranjit Talukder of Detective Branch of Sylhet

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

ATTEMPTED MURDER  
Nasir, Hazari acquitted in 22-yr-old case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong



AJM Nasir Nizam Hazari

A Chittagong court yesterday acquitted 18 people, including Chittagong City Corporation Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin and Awami League lawmaker Nizam Hazari, in an attempt to murder case filed 22 years ago.

District and Sessions Judge Nurul Huda passed the order of acquittal in presence of 15 of the accused.

Three other accused -- Shahnewaj Saki, Sakil Mahmud and Simanta Talukder -- have been absconding, said Public Prosecutor Abul Hashem.

According to the FIR, some armed men attacked the then BCL leader Sufian Siddique at a rally of the then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina at Laldighi Maidan on January 24, 1993.

Sufian later filed an attempt to murder case accusing 18 people, including the then BCL leaders Nasir and Nizam. Kotwali police submitted the charge sheet against the accused on March 7, 1993.

Defence lawyer Chandan Talukder yesterday told

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

# 54 charged with arson attack

*BNP leaders Rafiqul, MK Anwar among the accused*

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday pressed charges against 58 leaders and activists of BNP-led 20-party alliance including barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia and MK Anwar in a case filed for torching a vehicle in the city's Jatrabari area on January 23 this year.

The accused have also been charged with an explosion in the same attack -- one of many that the country witnessed in the three months from early January when the BNP-led 20-party alliance started an indefinite blockade across the country.

A day after the January 23 attack, Jatrabari Police filed a case against 68 BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami leaders. The cases were later transferred to the Detective Branch (DB) of Police.

Md Zahid Hossain, a DB sub-inspector yesterday submitted two charge sheets to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka in the case. One charge sheet involves torching a bus and the other involves blasting firebombs.

The accused includes BNP leaders Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed, Amanullah Aman, Barkatullah Bulu, Habibunnabi Khan Sohel,

Mir Sarafat Ali Sapu, Azizul Bari Helal, former BNP lawmaker from Dhaka Salauddin Ahmed, Khaleda's advisors Khandker Mahbub Hossain and Shawkat Mahmud, her special assistance Shimul Biswas, her press secretary Maruf Kamal Khan and BNP Vice-chairman Selima Rahman.

Eight of the accused, including Rizvi, are in jail. The charge sheet also showed Rafiqul and 49 others as fugitives as they are not on bail in the case.

After submitting the charges sheets, Zahid Hossain, also the investigating officer of the case, appealed to the court to issue arrest warrants against the fugitives.

The court is expected to decide on August 2 regarding accepting the charges and issuing the arrest orders.

The IO appealed to the court to drop names of 14 people named in the FIR as their involvement was not proved. The IO also included four other people in the charge sheet as their involvement was found during the investigation.

Earlier arrest warrants in four arson cases filed with Mirpur and Pallabi police stations were issued against Rafiqul Islam Mia.



One of oldest 'Quran scripts' found in UK

*Claim British researchers*

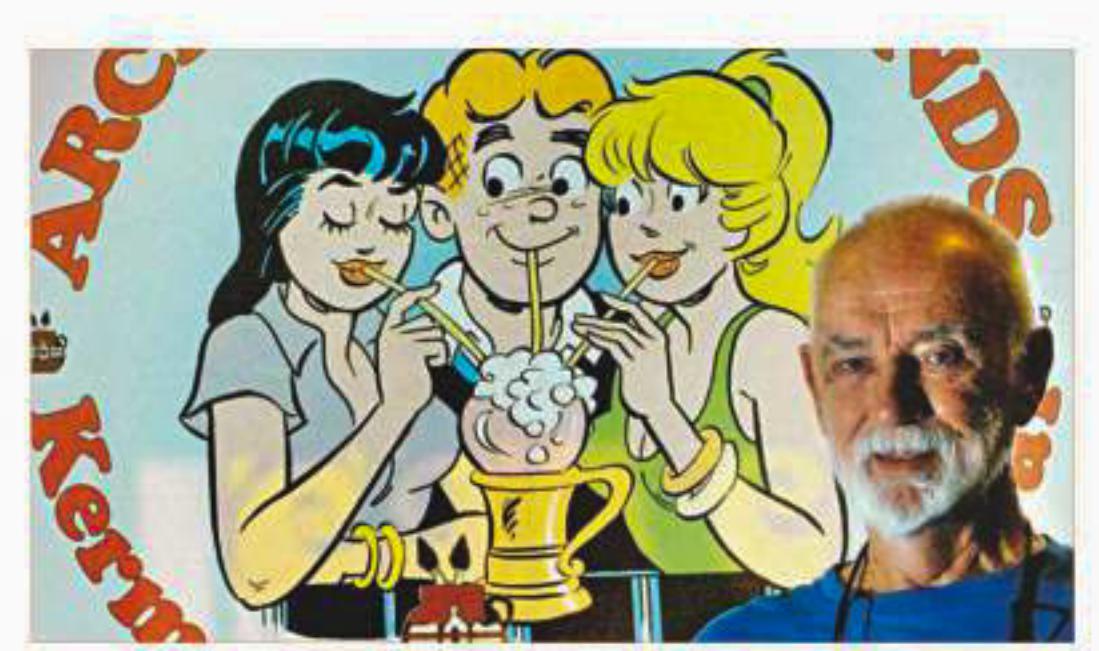
AFP, Birmingham

A Quran manuscript has been carbon dated to close to the time of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), making it one of the oldest in the world, a British university said yesterday.

The two leaves of parchment, filled with "surprisingly legible" text from Islam's holy book, have been dated to around the early seventh century, the University of Birmingham said.

"The tests carried out on the parchment of the Birmingham folios yield the strong probability that the animal from which it was taken was alive during

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



'Archie' creator Tom Moore dies

AP, Washington

Tom Moore, the "Archie" cartoonist who brought to life the escapades of a freckled-face, red-haired character, has died in Texas. He was 86.

Moore, who began drawing cartoons while in the US Navy during the Korean War, died early Monday morning while in hospice care in his hometown of El Paso, his son Lito Bujanda-Moore

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



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